

Transmitted Via Facsimile to (703) 872-9306

9D-DW-19892
PATENT

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A door panel assembly for a dishwasher comprising:

a panel comprising an integral a unitary formation downwardly depending therefrom, said formation comprising a boot-shaped portion defining a heel portion, a toe portion substantially perpendicular to said heel portion, and a curved arch portion tapering from said heel portion to said toe portion; and

a seal member comprising a head portion and an opening therein complementary in shape to said formation, ~~said formation received in said opening, said heel portion and said toe portion cooperating~~ said head portion opening defining a heel portion, an arch portion, and a toe portion ~~for receiving respective portions of said boot-shaped portion of said formation~~ to retain said seal member on said formation.

2. (cancelled)

3. (original) A door panel assembly in accordance with Claim 1, said seal member further comprising a flap portion extending from said head portion.

4. (currently amended) A door panel assembly in accordance with Claim 1, said formation and said seal member adapted for slide on installation of said seal member to said door panel.

5. (currently amended) A door panel assembly in accordance with Claim [[4]] 3, said panel further comprising a barrier portion extending from said panel in a spaced apart relationship to said formation, and wherein said flap portion of said seal member extends beyond said barrier portion.

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6. (previously presented) A door panel assembly in accordance with Claim 5 wherein said door panel comprises an inner door panel.

7. (previously presented) A door panel assembly in accordance with Claim 6 wherein said formation depends from a bottom portion of said inner door panel.

8. (currently amended) A door panel assembly for a dishwasher, said door panel assembly comprising:

an inner door panel comprising ~~an integral~~ a unitary formation extending downwardly therefrom, said formation comprising at least one flat surface and a curved surface extending opposite said flat surface, said at least one flat surface defining a heel portion extending beyond said curved surface, said curved surface tapering to a toe portion; and

a seal member comprising a head portion and an opening therethrough, said opening complimentary in shape to said formation and slidably receiving said formation and attaching to attach said seal member to said formation.

9. (original) A door panel assembly in accordance with Claim 8 wherein said formation comprises a boot portion, said boot portion comprising a flat rear edge.

10. (previously presented) A door panel assembly in accordance with Claim 9, wherein said heel portion extends from said flat rear edge.

11. (previously presented) A door panel assembly in accordance with Claim 10, said boot portion comprising a curved arch portion extending from said heel.

12. (previously presented) A door panel assembly in accordance with Claim 8, said inner door panel further comprising a barrier portion extending therefrom in a spaced apart

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relationship to said formation, said flat surface of said formation extending substantially parallel to said barrier formation.

13. (original) A door panel assembly in accordance with Claim 8 wherein said formation extends from a bottom portion of said inner panel.

14. (currently amended) A door panel assembly comprising:

a panel comprising a bottom portion, ~~an integral a~~ formation extending downwardly therefrom, and a barrier portion extending downwardly therefrom in a spaced apart relationship to said formation, said bottom portion, said formation and said barrier portion each being unitarily formed with said panel; and

a seal member comprising a head portion and a flap portion extending from said head portion and contacting a distal end of said barrier portion, said head portion comprising an opening therethrough for receiving said formation, said head portion engaged to said formation.

15. (original) A door panel assembly in accordance with Claim 14 wherein said seal member is adapted for slide on engagement with said formation.

16. (previously presented) A door panel assembly in accordance with Claim 15 wherein said formation comprises a boot portion comprising at least a curved arch surface.

17. (previously presented) A door panel assembly in accordance with Claim 16 wherein said boot portion further comprises a flat edge extending substantially parallel to said barrier portion.

18. - 20. (cancelled)

21. (currently amended) A bottom door seal for an inner panel of a dishwasher door, said seal comprising:

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a head portion and a flap portion extending from said head portion, said head portion defining a boot-shaped opening having a heel portion, a toe portion angularly displaced from said heel portion, and a curved arch portion tapering from said heel portion to said toe portion, wherein ~~said head portion and said flap portion are configured for engagement with a~~ is configured to receive a complementarily shaped protrusion on the door panel for sliding attachment of the seal to the door panel.

22. (currently amended) A seal according to Claim 21 wherein said flap portion extends beyond a barrier portion of the door panel and is configured for engagement with a the barrier portion of the door panel.